

CHAPTER 4

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.0 BACKGROUND

An environmental assessment (EA) must be prepared when a federal government agency considers approving an action within its jurisdiction that may impact the human environment. An EA aids federal officials in making decisions by presenting information on the physical, biological, and social environment of a proposed project and its alternatives. The first step in preparing an EA is to determine the scope of the project, the range of action alternatives, and the impacts to be included in the document.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508) require an early scoping process to determine the issues related to the proposed action and alternatives that the EA should address. The purpose of the scoping process is to identify important issues, concerns, and potential impacts that require analysis in the EA and to eliminate insignificant issues and alternatives from detailed analysis.

The Adobe Town 2D seismic environmental analysis was prepared by a third party contractor, working under the direction of, and in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, Rock Springs Field Office, the lead agency for the project.

4.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION

Public participation, consultation, and coordination has occurred. BLM issued a scoping document on December 6, 2001, informing the public of the Proposed Action to conduct geophysical operations on pre-FLPMA leases within the Adobe Town WSA. Nine response letters were received during the scoping process. Eight of the nine respondents supported the project and/or identified specific resource concerns that should be considered in the EA. The one letter in opposition to the project stated oil and gas exploration (including seismic) and development is inappropriate in a WSA. Additionally, the letter raised concerns about possible impacts to the wilderness character of the Adobe Town WSA; impacts to wildlife and their habitats, vegetation, archaeological and paleontological resources, possible impacts resulting from chemical spills; effects of underground blasts on subsurface hydrology, including aquifers that may feed local springs and seeps; effects on unstable and erodible slopes, and outcrops within the WSA; and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the project on the resources listed above. Issues brought forth in this letter have been addressed to the extent that these concerns or species are or may be present in the project area. Some of the species identified, such as the pallid bat and hoary bat, are not present. Thus, these species were not addressed.

During preparation of the EA, the BLM and the consultant interdisciplinary team (IDT) have communicated with, and received or solicited input from various federal, State, county, and local agencies, elected representatives, environmental and citizens groups, industries, and individuals potentially concerned with issues regarding the proposed geophysical action.

4.2 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following table 4-1 identifies the core consultant interdisciplinary team and BLM interdisciplinary team that were principally involved with preparing this EA.

Table 4-1 List of Preparers

Task	Individual
Project Manager - IDT Leader, Quality Assurance/Quality Control	Gary Holsan, Gary Holsan Environmental Planning
Soils, Geology, Paleontology, Water Resources, Vegetation	Gustav Winterfeld - Erathem-Vanir Geological
Wildlife, TEP&C, BLM-Sensitive Species	Peter Guernsey, TRC Mariah Associates Inc. Laramie, Wyoming Jan Hart, TRC Mariah Associates Inc. Laramie, Wyoming
BLM Project Manager	Teri Deakins, RSFO
Assistant Field Manager Lands and Minerals	Ted Murphy, RSFO
Assistant Field Manager Resources	Bernie Weynand, RSFO
Document Editing	Angelina Pryich, RSFO
Wild Horses	Kevin Lloyd, RSFO
Wildlife, TEP&C, BLM-Sensitive Species	Jim Dunder, RSFO
Cultural Resource	Terry Del Bene, RSFO
Natural Resource Specialist	John MacDonald, RSFO
Hydrologist	Dennis Doncaster, RSFO
Vegetation/Sensitive Plants	Jim Glennon, RSFO
Wilderness/Recreation	Andy Tenney, RSFO
Geology/Paleontology	David Valenzuela, RSFO
Physical Scientist	Vickie Mistarka, WSO